

Application No. 10/721,808
Amendment dated October 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A reamer comprising:

a shank;
a reamer body having a longitudinal axis; and
a blade formed in said reamer body, said blade deformable between a contracted position and an expanded position, said blade including at least one deformation point located at a predetermined distance from said shank, said at least one deformation point comprising a discontinuity in said blade.

Claim 2 (original): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said shank has a radius measured from said longitudinal axis, said blade in said contracted position extending no further from said longitudinal axis than said radius of said shank.

Claim 3 (original): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said shank has a radius measured from said longitudinal axis, said blade in said expanded position extending further from said longitudinal axis than said radius of said shank.

Claim 4 (original): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said blade in said contracted position is substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

Claim 5 (original): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said blade in said expanded position comprises a portion oriented radially outward from said longitudinal axis.

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Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The reamer of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one deformation point comprises an exterior circumferential relief.

Claim 8 (original): The reamer of claim 7, wherein said exterior circumferential relief is formed in a proximate end of said blade, said reamer further comprises a ring coupled to a distal end of said blade, and said at least one deformation point further comprises an exterior circumferential relief formed in said distal end of said blade.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The reamer of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one deformation point comprises at least one interior circumferential relief formed in said blade between said proximate end and said distal end.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The reamer of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one deformation point comprises a radially oriented cut in said blade.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The reamer of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one deformation point comprises a thinned region.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The reamer of claim 1~~ A reamer comprising:

a shank;

a reamer body having a longitudinal axis; and

a blade formed in said reamer body, said blade deformable between a contracted position and an expanded position, wherein said reamer body comprises a shaft having a polygonal cross-section, an edge of said blade being coincident with an apex formed by two adjacent sides of said polygonal reamer body.

Claim 13 (original): The reamer of claim 1, further comprising an actuating means for moving said blade between said contracted position and said expanded position.

Claim 14 (original): The reamer of claim 13, wherein said shank is cannulated and said actuating means comprises an elongate member connected to said blade, proximate translation of said elongate member moving said blade from said contracted position to said expanded position, and distal translation of said elongate member moving said blade from said expanded position to said contracted position.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The reamer of claim 1, further comprising an end cutter secured to a distal end of said reamer body.

Claim 16 (original): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said blade is biased to said expanded position and is collapsible to said contracted position upon application of a radially inward force upon said blade.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A reamer, comprising:

a shank;

a reamer body having a longitudinal axis;

a blade formed in said reamer body, said blade having a blade length and including a deformation point located at a predetermined distance along said blade length, said at least one deformation point comprising a discontinuity in said blade; and

deformation means for deforming said blade between a contracted position and an expanded position.

Claim 18 (original): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said shank has a radius measured from said longitudinal axis, said blade in said contracted position extending no further from said longitudinal axis than said radius of said shank.

Claim 19 (original): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said shank has a radius measured from said longitudinal axis, said blade in said expanded position extending further from said longitudinal axis than said radius of said shank.

Claim 20 (original): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said blade in said contracted position is substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

Claim 21 (original): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said blade in said expanded position comprises a portion oriented radially outward from said longitudinal axis.

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~The reamer of claim 17~~ A reamer, comprising:

a shank;

a reamer body having a longitudinal axis;

a blade formed in said reamer body; and

deformation means for deforming said blade between a contracted position and an expanded position, wherein said reamer body comprises a shaft having a polygonal cross-section, an edge of said blade being coincident with an apex formed by two adjacent sides of said polygonal reamer body.

Claim 23 (original): The reamer of claim 17, further comprising an actuating means for moving said blade between said contracted position and said expanded position.

Claim 24 (original): The reamer of claim 23, wherein said shank is cannulated and said actuating means comprises an elongate member connected to said blade, proximate translation of said elongate member moving said blade from said contracted position to said expanded position, and distal translation of said elongated member moving said blade from said expanded position to said contracted position.

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Claim 25 (withdrawn): The reamer of claim 17, further comprising an end cutter secured to a distal end of said reamer body.

Claim 26 (original): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said blade is biased to said expanded position and is collapsible to said contracted position upon application of a radially inward force upon said blade.

Claims 27-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): The reamer of claim 1, wherein said discontinuity comprises a notch in said blade.

Claim 35 (new): The reamer of claim 17, wherein said discontinuity comprises a notch in said blade.